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Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Week in Review & What's Ahead

Morning Consult Energy: Week in Review & What's Ahead



By Jacqueline Toth

Week in Review

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- The White House terminated the nomination process for David Hill to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Hill confirmed to a news outlet - a process that ended following a reported push by Energy Secretary Rick Perry, along with other senior Energy Department officials and coal executives, against Hill's nomination.
- FERC's chief of staff, Anthony Pugliese, resigned effective March 15, according to FERC, which did not provide a rationale for his departure.

Trump administration

- The Energy Department will provide an additional \$3.7 billion in federally backed loan guarantees to Atlanta, Ga.-based Southern Co. and other partners in the over-budgeted project to expand the Plant Vogtle nuclear facility in Georgia, according to two sources, on top of \$8.3 billion in guarantees the plant already received from the Obama administration.
- The Environmental Protection Agency under former Administrator Scott Pruitt made a concerted push to change Obama-era glider kit regulations after he received a memo from former Rep. Diane Black (R-Tenn.), then-chairwoman of the

House Budget Committee whose district included glider kit maker Fitzgerald Glider Kits LLC, urging Pruitt to modify the rules, according to documents obtained through a records request and obtained by a media outlet.

- The Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs approved a request from the Mashantucket Pequot tribe to run a new casino in Connecticut with the Mohegan tribe, according to a notice in the Federal Register - a decision that will close a lawsuit against former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke that claimed he prevented the project from advancing for over a year due to opposition from Nevada lawmakers and MGM Resorts International.

Oil and gas

- A shelter-in-place order was implemented and then lifted in Deer Park, Texas, after high levels of benzene were detected in the air resulting from last week's petrochemical fires at Intercontinental Terminals Co.'s facilities. The EPA and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality have said they were awaiting water sample results to check for impacts from the foam in nearby waterways.
- Canada Pension Plan Investment Board is investing \$1.34 billion for a 35 percent stake in a \$3.8 billion joint venture with U.S. energy company Williams Cos. Inc., which will hold the remaining portion of the venture and operate it, according to the two companies.
- Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries would cancel its meeting in April, which he said would be too soon to decide whether to continue with a group reduction in oil production.
- In a 7-4 vote, the Colorado House Energy and Environment Committee approved Senate Bill 181, which would give local governments more control over the location of oil and gas facilities in the state and shift the state's focus from fostering development of the resources to protecting public health. The bill, which has passed the Senate and must also pass the House Finance panel, is expected to go through further amendments before a House floor vote.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are in session this week.
- Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) are scheduled to participate in an event by Resources for the Future on putting a price on carbon.
- House Appropriations subcommittees will take a look at various aspects of the Trump administration's budget request, including for the Interior Department, Energy Department and National Science Foundation.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

03/24/2019

AFPM International Petrochemical Conference

03/25/2019

AFPM International Petrochemical Conference

NEI Cyber Security Implementation Workshop

Bloomberg New Energy Finance Summit

Nuclear Innovation Week

Heritage Foundation event on Clean Water Act overreach	12:00 pm
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Atlantic Council Event on Climate Change & National Security: Protecting Integrity of Threat Assessments	2:00 pm
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Columbia University Event on Carbontech: How Business is Creating Wealth from Waste	6:00 pm
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03/26/2019

AFPM International Petrochemical Conference

AWEA Wind Project Siting and Environmental Compliance
Conference 2019

Nuclear Innovation Week

NEI Cyber Security Implementation Workshop

Illuminating Engineering Society's Roadway Lighting Committee
Meetings

Bloomberg New Energy Finance Summit

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations
Subcommittee hearing on the National Science Foundation's Budget
Request for Fiscal Year 2020

Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the Energy Department budget	10:00 am
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House Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee legislative hearing	10:00 am
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Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the Interior Department budget	10:30 am
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SAIS Event: Bioenergy: Myths and Opportunities	12:30 pm
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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Public Meeting Soliciting Comments on the draft EIS for the Don Pedro and La Grange Projects	1:00 pm
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Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Hearing on the Need to Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain	2:00 pm
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Columbia University Event on Carbon Capture, Use, and Storage as a Tool to Counter Climate Change	6:00 pm
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03/27/2019

AWEA Wind Project Siting and Environmental Compliance
Conference 2019

Nuclear Innovation Week

NEI Cyber Security Implementation Workshop

Illuminating Engineering Society's Roadway Lighting Committee
Meetings

Hawaii Energy Conference and Exhibition

House Natural Resources Hearing Examining the Department of the Interior's Spending Priorities and the President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal	10:00 am
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House Investigations & Oversight and Environment Subcommittees hearing on EPA's IRIS program	10:00 am
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Columbia University book talk on Carter's Energy, Economic, and Foreign Policy	11:30 am
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K&L Gates Event on the Future of Renewable Energy and the Role of the Free Market	12:00 pm
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Senate Water and Power Subcommittee hearing on the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan	2:30 pm
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NASEM Space and Aeronautics public lecture on sea level rise	7:00 pm
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03/28/2019

AWEA Wind Project Siting and Environmental Compliance
Conference 2019

Illuminating Engineering Society's Roadway Lighting Committee
Meetings

Nuclear Innovation Week

Hawaii Energy Conference and Exhibition

Sen. Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Rep. Beyer (D-Va.) attend Resources for the Future event on a carbon price	8:30 am
Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting on Transformation at the NRC: Innovation	9:00 am
House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Hearing on Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation: Innovative Approaches and Economic Development Opportunities	10:00 am
House Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Hearing on the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan	10:00 am
Senate Environment and Public Works hearing on the federal response to the risks associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	10:00 am
Senate Energy and Natural Resources nomination hearing on David Bernhardt to lead the Interior Department	10:00 am
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Technical Conference regarding Security Investments for Energy Infrastructure	10:00 am
Global CCS Institute, Carbon Capture Coalition and Carbon Utilization Research Council briefing on carbon capture	11:45 am
Energy Department Webinar on Energy Storage and Batteries	1:00 pm
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Technical Conference regarding Review of Cost Submittals by Other Federal Agencies for Administering Part I of the Federal Power Act	2:00 pm
Environmental and Energy Study Institute Event on Climate Change in the American Mind	3:30 pm

03/29/2019

RealClearPolitics' Powering the Grid: Access, Affordability & Fuel Diversity	8:00 am
Environmental Law Institute Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review: Washington D.C. Conference	9:30 am

SAIS Event: Disaster Strikes Again: Agriculture Resiliency in the Face of Climate Shocks

12:00
pm

[View full calendar](#)



The State of the Democratic Primary

On a daily basis, Morning Consult is surveying over 5,000 registered voters across the United States on the 2020 presidential election. Each week, we'll

update this page with the latest survey data, offering an in-depth guide to how the race for the Democratic nomination is shaping up.

Morning Consult Energy Top Reads

1) FERC chief of staff Pugliese steps down

Gavin Bade, Utility Dive

2) How PG&E Ignored Fire Risks in Favor of Profits

Ivan Penn et al., The New York Times

3) Coal companies join with Rick Perry to derail Trump nominee

Darius Dixon, Politico

4) EPA's Pruitt Faced Hill Pressure on Glider Truck Rule Repeal

Abby Smith, Bloomberg BNA

5) EV maintenance costs in NYC run lower than gas-powered cars

Ben Geman, Axios

6) Key Democrat Paul Tonko unveils 'doable' climate change plan to attract Republicans

Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner

7) Houston Officials Vow Public Is Safe as Fire Plume Hovers in Sky

Joe Carroll, Bloomberg

8) ITC Deer Park facility fire could take 2 days to burn out, officials say

Jeff Ehling et al., ABC 13

9) Court orders Interior to redo climate analysis

Pamela King, E&E News

10) Republicans Tillis, Collins, Alexander oppose Trump's weakening of coal plant pollution rules

Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner



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